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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PERMREP PUSHES UNSC REFORM AND
DEMOCRACY CAUCUS

1. (SBU) During a meeting on November 2 with Amb Khalilzad, Australian PermRep Robert Hill sought clarification about whether the U.S. had adopted a more forward-leaning approach on UNSC reform after President Bush's speech to the UNGA (other topics covered septel). Amb Khalilzad told him the U.S. is willing to listen to good ideas and believes nations other than Japan should be considered for permanent membership on the UNSC. But UNSC reform would have to be part of a package of broader reform of the UN. Amb Khalilzad said the U.S. was beginning to think about what other reforms should comprise that overall package, and would look to begin a dialogue with countries such as Australia on this issue over the next several months. The Secretary-General's planned retreat on UN reform in January 2007 could be a useful forum to discuss this issue. Hill appreciated the clarification and noted that Australia had recently announced that it would support India, in addition to Japan, for permanent membership on the UNSC.

2. (SBU) Hill also raised the need to reinvigorate the UN Democracy Caucus. Noting that the last meeting of the caucus took place in 2004, Hill suggested that Portugal -- which is set to assume the chair of the Community of Democracies (the group which the Caucus seeks to emulate at the UN) -- should be encouraged to call more meetings of the caucus and perhaps use it to push a democracy-themed resolution at the UN. Amb Khalilzad agreed that reinvigorating the caucus would be a useful step. Hill agreed to host a meeting with Amb Khalilzad and the Portuguese PermRep after the upcoming Bamako Ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies concludes to discuss next steps.
Khalilzad